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GAS CLEANSING STATIONS

Prepared for

WAR DEPARTMENT CIVILIAN PROTECTION SCHOOLS

GAS SPECIALIST COURSE

by

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U. S. OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE

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GAS CLEANSING STATIONS

1. Definitions

- a. Contamination
- b. Decontamination
- c. Cleansing

(Mention change in terminology)

2. Categories of persons for whom cleansing facilities should be provided

- a. For injured civilians requiring hospitalization or unable to care for themselves (Self aid for ordinary citizens). Designed primarily to protect hospital and secondarily for benefit of patient.
- b. For workers at industrial plants.
- c. For decontamination squads and other Civilian Protection personnel

3. Structural requirements under ideal conditions (for injured contaminated patients but to be used also for Civilian Protection personnel).

- a. Undressing room. Area at least 400 sq. ft. (20' x 20') walls, ceiling and floor impervious or painted with sodium silicate paint; floor graded to central drain; exhaust fan near floor.
- b. Cleansing room separated from undressing room by gas lock, area at least 500 sq. ft.; walls, ceiling and floor impervious or painted with sodium silicate paint; floor graded to central drain. Room should be provided with hot and cold water lines with 6 hose connections and 4 shower heads.
- c. Dressing room - separated by gas lock from cleansing room, constructed with impervious or sodium silicate treated walls, ceiling and floor, graded to a central drain. Floor area should be at least 400 square feet. Lavatory and toilet or utility sink in one corner, cupboards for stores. Curtained space for first aid.
- d. Gas Lock: A small room designed to provide a dead air space between two communicating rooms. The dead air space will prevent a current of contaminated air from flowing from one room to another. The locks for a cleansing station for injured patients should be large enough to accommodate a stretcher and two bearers with both ends closed (10' x 3.5'). See "Protection Against Gas," Page 55, for construction of ends of gas lock.

(Note: A station will presumably not be used if the site is gassed. It is not necessary to divide a station for casualties into male and female sides.)

4. Equipment and materials

- a. Undressing room:
 - (1) Instruction signs.
 - (2) Stretcher stands (saw horses).

- (3) Covered metal containers or bins for contaminated clothing.
- (4) Shuffle Box at door for shoes (sand and bleach mixture).
- (5) Diaphragm mask for person in charge.
- (6) Protective ointment.
- (7) Dry cloths for swabbing.
- (8) Gallon bottles of sodium hypochlorite (5%).
- (9) Table
- (10) Basin for sodium hypochlorite solution for dipping gloves.

b. Cleansing room:

- (1) Instruction signs.
- (2) Stretcher stands (saw horses).
- (3) 2 eye irrigation cans (with hose and clamps).
- (4) Two per cent solution of sodium bicarbonate in five gallon bottles with siphon hose and clamp (eye, nose and throat).
- (5) Sterile physiological saline solution in five gallon bottles with siphon hose and clamp (wounds).
- (6) Flexible hose with spray heads for hose outlets.
- (7) Soap.
- (8) Sodium hypochlorite.
- (9) Dry cloths for swabbing.
- (10) Covered containers.

c. Dressing room:

- (1) Stretcher stands (saw horses).
- (2) Cupboards and lockers storing hospital gowns, clean clothing, blankets, protective clothing, boots, mittens, gas masks.
- (3) Chairs and table.
- (4) Buckets of sand.
- (5) Cans of calcium hypochlorite.
- (6) Dressing cart.
- (7) Medical kit to be supplied from hospital when needed. (Medical Division Bulletin No. 2).
- (8) Clean stretchers.
- (9) Waste can.

5. Special Considerations

a. Factors which should limit construction of stations

- (1) Gas has not been used.
- (2) Expense.
- (3) Scarcity of materials may prevent building of new structures and interfere with conversions of existing structures.
- (4) Use second hand materials.

b. Rational approach in view of limitations

- (1) Provide facilities only for selected groups of persons
 - (a) Injured persons requiring hospitalizations.
 - (b) Civilian Protection personnel performing decontamination or otherwise exposed to gas.
- (2) Utilize existing structures by conversion.
- (3) Each hospital of 150 beds or more should be provided with a cleansing station. Cleansing stations should be available in the ratio

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of one per 50,000 population and should be located at smaller hospitals or casualty stations where 150 bed hospitals are not available in this ratio.

6. Suggested locations for improvised cleansing stations:

- a. Hydrotherapy rooms at hospitals.
- b. Nurses' or other locker and shower rooms at hospitals.
- c. Part of Out-patient department at hospital (Remind class that each hospital must have a Casualty Station and that out-patient department may be required for this.)
- d. Garages or other separate structures at hospitals.
- e. School shower rooms.
- f. Gymnasium shower rooms.
- g. Swimming and wading pool shower rooms.
- h. Club houses including YWCA and YMCA.
- i. Hotel washrooms with outside entrances.
- j. Gasoline filling stations of appropriate design.

7. Minimum structural requirements needed for improvised gas cleansing stations.

- a. Separate entrance.
- b. Undressing space 400 sq. ft. (20' x 20'). (May be room, hall or outdoors.)
- c. Walls and floor which can be made relatively non-absorbent (Sodium silicate paint).
- d. Gas lock between undressing and cleansing rooms.
- e. Cleansing room at least 500 square feet with cement, tile or stone floor and with central drain supplied with hot and cold water.
- f. Hose outlets and shower heads (latter if it is to be used for cleansing civilian protection personnel).
- g. (If in hospital) Entrance from dressing room to interior of hospital via gas lock.
- h. (If not in hospital) 400 square foot space for dressing and first aid.

8. Equipment for improvised cleansing stations same as for permanent stations.

9. Cleansing facilities at industrial plants.

- a. Army and Navy responsible in plants they supervise.
- b. Local factors important (target areas, surroundings, proximity to population center, hospital facilities).
- c. Number and location of workers - in or out of doors.
- d. Facilities must be designed with panic problem in mind.

REMINDE SENIOR GAS OFFICERS THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE STATIONS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHIEF OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AND SENIOR GAS OFFICER SHOULD HELP HIM ON THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

